PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT
Applicant: Mark L. Yoseloff.
Serial No.: 09/405,921
Filed   September 24, 1999
Docket No.:   PA0368.ap.US
Examiner: S. Ashburn
Group Art Unit: 3713
Title: VIDEO GAMING APPARATUS FOR WAGERING WITH
UNIVERSAL COMPUTERIZED CONTROLLER AND I/O INTERFACE FOR UNIQUE ARCHITECTURE

a communication port communicatively coupled to the computerized game controller;

an interface assembly comprising one or more user interface devices; [and]

an I/O interface adapter configured to communicatively couple the interface assembly to the communication port and convert at least some signals between the interface formats supported by the interface assembly and the universal controller; and

the communication port connected to gaming peripherals that can be communicated with by the computerized gaming controller.

2. The computerized wagering game apparatus of claim 1 wherein the game controller is an IBM PC-compatible computer system.

3. (AMENDED) The computerized gaming apparatus of claim 1 wherein the communication port is selected from the group consisting of a PC serial port, PC parallel port, and a USB port and the at least some signals are converted by converting signals from one voltage level to another, inverting signals, multiplexing or decoding signals, or converting signals between formats supported by the various interface assemblies and the universal computerized game controller.

4. The computerized wagering game apparatus of claim 1 wherein at least one of the user interface devices are selected from the group consisting of buttons, slot machine arms, touch screen coordinates and joy sticks.

5. The computerized wagering game apparatus of claim 1 wherein at least one of the user interface devices comprises a credit management device.

6. The computerized wagering game apparatus of claim 5 wherein the credit management device is selected from the group consisting of coin acceptors, coin recognition systems, currency acceptors, currency recognition systems, credit card readers, and smart card readers.

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7. The computerized wagering game apparatus of claim 1 wherein at least one of the user interface devices comprises a security device.

8. The computerized wagering game apparatus of claim 7 wherein at least one of the security devices is selected from the group consisting of tilt switches, device integrity switches, and spurious electrical discharge detectors.

9. (AMENDED)   A method for reconfiguring a computerized wagering game apparatus having a wiring harness for associating a computerized game controller with output devices in the apparatus, the method comprising:

a) removing an original special-purpose computerized game controller used to control a computerized wagering game from the apparatus, the original computerized game controller designed to and capable of working exclusively with a particular computerized wagering game apparatus and at least some interface devices on the apparatus, the peripherals having been connected to the original computerized game controller through a wiring harness that is not removed when the original special-purpose computerized game controller is removed;

b) inserting a universal computerized game controller operable to control a video wagering game and/or slot wagering game that can be played on the video and/or slot wagering game apparatus and an I/O interface that operatively couples the universal computerized game controller to user interface devices of the wagering game apparatus, the I/O interface adapter configured to communicatively couple the interface assembly to the communication port and a) convert at least some signals between the interface formats supported by the interface assembly and the universal controller and/or b) the I/O interface having digital logic to perform at least one function selected from the group consisting of buffering and latching signals; and

c) sending signals from the computerized game controller through the I/O interface and harness to [confirm proper communication] communicate between the computerized game controller and the at least some user interface devices, communication to the at least some user interface devices performed through the wiring harness that was not removed.

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10. The method of claim 9 wherein after said sending signals, the video and/or slot gaming apparatus enables a video and/or slot display device associated with the video and/or slot wagering game apparatus to provide a visual representation of a signal provided by the computerized game controller such that the video and/or slot display device displays at least one visual image selected from the group consisting of a) computerized wagering game status information and b) symbol elements that change with the play of the wagering game.

11. The method of claim 9, wherein the universal computerized game apparatus is an IBM PC-compatible computer system.

12. The method of claim 9, wherein the I/O interface is operatively coupled to a communication port selected from the group consisting of a PC serial port, a PC parallel port, and a USB port and the at least some signals are converted by converting signals from one voltage level to another, inverting signals, multiplexing or decoding signals, or converting signals between formats supported by the various interface assemblies and the universal computerized game controller.

13. The method of claim 9, wherein at least one of the user interface devices is selected from the group consisting of buttons, slot machine arms, touch screen coordinates and joy sticks.

14. The method of claim 9, wherein [at least one of the user interface devices comprises a credit management device] the I/O interface has digital logic to perform at least one function selected from the group consisting of buffering, latching signals.

15. The method of claim 14, wherein at least one of the user interface devices comprises a credit management device, and the credit management device is selected from the group consisting of coin acceptors, coin recognition systems, currency acceptors, currency recognition systems, credit card readers, and smart card readers.

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16. The method of claim 9, wherein at least one of the user interface devices comprises a security device.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein at least one of the security devices is selected from the group consisting of tilt switches, device integrity switches, and spurious electrical discharge detectors.

Please cancel claim 18 without prejudice, Applicants reserving the right to file a continuation application on the subject matter of that claim.

19. (AMENDED) A computerized wagering game apparatus, comprising:

a universal computerized game controller operable to control a computerized wagering game;

a video and/or slot display device providing a visual representation of a signal provided by the universal computerized game controller such that the video and/or slot display device displays at least one visual image selected from the group consisting of

a) computerized wagering game status information and

b) symbol elements that change with the play of the

wagering game;

a communication port communicatively coupled to the computerized game controller;

a interface assembly comprising one or more user interface devices; and

an I/O interface adapter configured to communicatively couple the interface assembly to the communication port, the I/O interface adapter configured to communicatively couple the interface assembly to the communication port and a) convert at least some signals between the interface formats supported by the interface assembly and the universal controller and/or b) the I/O interface having digital logic to perform at least one function selected from the group consisting of buffering and latching signals.

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20.   The device of claim 1 wherein the computerized game <u>apparatus</u> comprises an embedded mother board.

21.   The method of claim 9 wherein the universal computerized game controller is an embedded mother board.

22. (AMENDED) A universal video and/or slot wagering gaming controller comprising:

     a pin connector for attachment to a video and/or slot wagering gaming apparatus;

     a connector to a circuit board;

     the circuit board having controls for peripherals in the gaming apparatus which can be executed by a computer;

     <u>an I/O interface between said wagering gaming controller and the pin connector, the I/O interface adapter configured to communicatively couple the interface assembly to the communication port and a) convert at least some signals between the interface formats supported by the interface assembly and the universal controller and/or b) the I/O interface having digital logic to perform at least one function selected from the group consisting of buffering and latching signals; and</u>

     the circuit board having a port to connect the controls for peripherals to a computer within the gaming apparatus.

    23. The universal gaming controller of claim 22 wherein the peripherals include at least one function selected from the group consisting of button controls, coin acceptors, touch screen coordinates, credit managers, currency acceptors, operating system, security devices, game operating code and a store of images.

    24. The universal gaming controller of claim 22 wherein the port is connected to a computer to execute the controls for peripherals.

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25. The universal gaming controller of claim 23 wherein the port is connected to a computer to execute the controls for peripherals.

26. The universal gaming controller of claim 22 wherein the gaming apparatus is a video gaming apparatus.

27. (AMENDED) A computerized wagering game apparatus, comprising:

a computerized game controller operable to control a computerized wagering game, the controller including at least a random number generator to randomly determine outcomes;

a video display device providing a visual representation of a signal provided by the computerized game controller such that the video display device displays at least one visual image selected from the group consisting of

        a)   computerized wagering game status information and

        b)   symbol elements that change with the play of the wagering game;

a communication port communicatively coupled to the computerized game controller and at least some user interface devices on the apparatus, the at least some user interface devices having been connected to the computerized game controller;

an interface assembly comprising [one or more] the at least some user interface devices; and

an I/O interface adapter configured to communicatively couple the interface assembly to the communication port and to the at least some user interface devices, the I/O interface adapter configured to communicatively couple the interface assembly to the communication port and a) convert at least some signals between the interface formats supported by the interface assembly and the universal controller and/or b) the I/O interface having digital logic to perform at least one function selected from the group consisting of buffering and latching signals.

28. (AMENDED) An interface adapter for a wagering gaming apparatus comprising an I/O interface adapter configured to communicatively couple the interface assembly to the communication port and a) convert at least some signals between the interface formats supported

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by the interface assembly and the universal controller and/or b) the I/O interface having digital logic to perform at least one function selected from the group consisting of buffering and latching signals , the I/O interface adapter configured to operatively couple an interface assembly to a communication port which is in turn operatively coupled to a computerized video and/or slot wagering game controller comprising nonvolatile storage with instructions stored thereon, the instructions when executed operable to cause the computer to execute a wagering game, including at least a random number generator to determine random outcomes, the wagering game controlled by the wagering game controller via the user interface assembly.

29. A method for reconfiguring a computerized wagering game apparatus having a harness for associating computerized game controller with output devices in the apparatus, the method comprising:

a) removing an original special-purpose computerized game controller used to control a computerized wagering game from the apparatus, the original computerized game controller designed to and capable of working exclusively with a particular computerized wagering game apparatus, while leaving peripheral devices within the computerized wagering game apparatus;

b) inserting a universal computerized game controller operable to control a video and/or slot wagering game that can be played on the video and/or slot wagering game apparatus and an I/O interface that operatively couples the universal computerized game controller to user interface devices of the wagering game apparatus, the universal computerized game controller comprising at least a random number generator; and

c) sending signals from the computerized game controller through the I/O interface and harness to [confirm proper communication] communicate between the computerized game controller and operate the user interface devices, the I/O interface adapter configured to communicatively couple the interface assembly to the communication port and a) convert at least some signals between the interface formats supported by the interface assembly and the universal controller and/or b) the I/O interface having digital logic to perform at least one function selected from the group consisting of buffering and latching signals.

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30. The method of claim 29 wherein the peripherals includes at least one peripheral selected from the group consisting of button controls, coin acceptors, touch screen coordinates, credit managers, currency acceptors, operating system, security devices, game operating code and a store of images.

31. A computerized wagering game apparatus, comprising:

a computerized game controller operable to control a computerized wagering game, the controller including at least a random number generator to randomly determine outcomes and a pay table identifying payouts based upon the occurrence of random events;

a video and/or slot display device providing a visual representation of a signal provided by the computerized game controller such that the display device displays at least one visual image selected from the group consisting of

a) computerized wagering game status information and

b) symbol elements that change with the play of the wagering game;

a communication port communicatively coupled to the computerized game controller;

a interface assembly comprising one or more user interface devices; and

an I/O interface configured to communicatively couple the interface assembly to the communication port, the I/O interface adapter configured to communicatively couple the interface assembly to the communication port and a) convert at least some signals between the interface formats supported by the interface assembly and the universal controller and/or b) the I/O interface having digital logic to perform at least one function selected from the group consisting of buffering and latching signals.

32. An interface adapter configured to operatively couple an interface assembly to a communication port operatively coupled to a computerized video and/or slot wagering game controller comprising nonvolatile storage with instructions stored thereon, the instructions when executed operable to cause the computer to execute a video and/or slot wagering game, including at least a random number generator to determine random outcomes, controlled via the user interface assembly and a pay table to define payouts for a random event, the interface assembly

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having an I/O interface having digital logic to perform at least one function selected from the group consisting of buffering, latching signals and converting signals between protocols.

33. A computerized wagering game apparatus, comprising:

a computerized game controller operable to control a computerized wagering game;

a video display and/or slot display device providing a visual representation of a signal provided by the computerized game controller such that the video display device displays at least one visual image selected from the group consisting of

        c)   computerized wagering game status information and

        d)   symbol elements that change with the play of the wagering game;

a communication port communicatively coupled to the computerized game controller;

an interface assembly comprising one or more user interface devices; and

an I/O interface adapter configured to communicatively couple the interface assembly to the communication port and only convert signals, the I/O interface adapter configured to communicatively couple the interface assembly to the communication port and a) convert at least some signals between the interface formats supported by the interface assembly and the universal controller and/or b) the I/O interface having digital logic to perform at least one function selected from the group consisting of buffering and latching signals.

Please add the following new claims:

34. A method for reconfiguring a computerized wagering game apparatus having a harness for associating a computerized game controller with output devices in the apparatus, the method comprising:

a) removing an original special-purpose computerized game controller used to control a computerized wagering game from the apparatus, the original computerized game controller designed to and capable of working exclusively with a particular computerized wagering game apparatus and at least some interface devices on the apparatus, the peripherals having been connected to the original computerized game controller through a connector;

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b) inserting a universal computerized game controller operable to control a video wagering game and/or slot wagering game that can be played on the video and/or slot wagering game apparatus and an I/O interface adapter that operatively couples the universal computerized game controller to user interface devices of the wagering game apparatus, the I/O interface adapter_configured to communicatively couple the interface assembly to the communication port and i) convert at least some signals between the interface formats supported by the interface assembly and the universal controller; ii) the I/O interface having digital logic to perform at least one function selected from the group consisting of buffering and latching signals; and/or iii) encode signals, convert signals from one voltage level to another, invert signals, multiplex signals or decode signals; and

c) sending signals from the computerized game controller through the I/O interface and harness to communicate between the computerized game controller and the at least some user interface devices, communication to the at least some user interface devices performed through the connector.

35. The method of claim 34 wherein after said sending signals, the video and/or slot gaming apparatus enables a video and/or slot display device associated with the video and/or slot wagering game apparatus to provide a visual representation of a signal provided by the computerized game controller such that the video and/or slot display device displays at least one visual image selected from the group consisting of a) computerized wagering game status information and b) symbol elements that change with the play of the wagering game.

36. The method of claim 34 wherein the I/O interface adapter has digital logic to convert signals between protocols.

37. The method of claim 35 wherein the I/O interface adapter has digital logic to convert signals between protocols.

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29. The universal gaming controller of claim 23 wherein the port is connected to a computer

to execute the controls for peripherals.

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30. The universal gaming controller of claim 22 wherein the gaming apparatus is a video

gaming apparatus.

27. A computerized wagering game apparatus, comprising:

a computerized game controller operable to control a computerized wagering game, the

controller including at least a random number generator to randomly determine outcomes;

a video display device providing a visual representation of a signal provided by the

computerized game controller such that the video display device displays at least one visual

image selected from the group consisting of

c) computerized wagering game status information and

d) symbol elements that change with the play of the wagering game;

a communication port communicatively coupled to the computerized game controller and

at least some user interface devices on the apparatus, the at least some user interface devices

having been connected to the computerized game controller;

an interface assembly comprising the at least some user interface devices; and

an I/O interface adapter configured to communicatively couple the interface assembly to

the communication port and to the at least some user interface devices, the I/O interface adapter

configured to communicatively couple the interface assembly to the communication port and a)

convert at least some signals between the interface formats supported by the interface assembly

and the universal controller and/or b) the I/O interface having digital logic to perform at least one

function selected from the group consisting of buffering and latching signals.

28. An interface adapter for a wagering gaming apparatus comprising an I/O interface adapter

configured to communicatively couple the interface assembly to the communication port and a)

convert at least some signals between the interface formats supported by the interface assembly

and the universal controller and/or b) the I/O interface having digital logic to perform at least one

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function selected from the group consisting of buffering and latching signals , the I/O interface adapter configured to operatively couple an interface assembly to a communication port which is in turn operatively coupled to a computerized video and/or slot wagering game controller comprising nonvolatile storage with instructions stored thereon, the instructions when executed operable to cause the computer to execute a wagering game, including at least a random number generator to determine random outcomes, the wagering game controlled by the wagering game controller via the user interface assembly.

29. A method for reconfiguring a computerized wagering game apparatus having a harness for associating computerized game controller with output devices in the apparatus, the method comprising:

a) removing an original special-purpose computerized game controller used to control a computerized wagering game from the apparatus, the original computerized game controller designed to and capable of working exclusively with a particular computerized wagering game apparatus, while leaving peripheral devices within the computerized wagering game apparatus;

b) inserting a universal computerized game controller operable to control a video and/or slot wagering game that can be played on the video and/or slot wagering game apparatus and an I/O interface that operatively couples the universal computerized game controller to user interface devices of the wagering game apparatus, the universal computerized game controller comprising at least a random number generator; and

c) sending signals from the computerized game controller through the I/O interface and harness to communicate between the computerized game controller and operate the user interface devices, the I/O interface adapter configured to communicatively couple the interface assembly to the communication port and a) convert at least some signals between the interface formats supported by the interface assembly and the universal controller and/or b) the I/O interface having digital logic to perform at least one function selected from the group consisting of buffering and latching signals.

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30. The method of claim 29 wherein the peripherals includes at least one peripheral selected from the group consisting of button controls, coin acceptors, touch screen coordinates, credit managers, currency acceptors, operating system, security devices, game operating code and a store of images.

31. A computerized wagering game apparatus, comprising:

a computerized game controller operable to control a computerized wagering game, the controller including at least a random number generator to randomly determine outcomes and a pay table identifying payouts based upon the occurrence of random events;

a video and/or slot display device providing a visual representation of a signal provided by the computerized game controller such that the display device displays at least one visual image selected from the group consisting of

c) computerized wagering game status information and

d) symbol elements that change with the play of the wagering game;

a communication port communicatively coupled to the computerized game controller;

a interface assembly comprising one or more user interface devices; and

an I/O interface configured to communicatively couple the interface assembly to the communication port, the I/O interface adapter configured to communicatively couple the interface assembly to the communication port and a) convert at least some signals between the interface formats supported by the interface assembly and the universal controller and/or b) the I/O interface having digital logic to perform at least one function selected from the group consisting of buffering and latching signals.

32. An interface adapter configured to operatively couple an interface assembly to a communication port operatively coupled to a computerized video and/or slot wagering game controller comprising nonvolatile storage with instructions stored thereon, the instructions when executed operable to cause the computer to execute a video and/or slot wagering game, including at least a random number generator to determine random outcomes, controlled via the user interface assembly and a pay table to define payouts for a random event, the interface assembly

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having an I/O interface having digital logic to perform at least one function selected from the group consisting of buffering, latching signals and converting signals between protocols.

33. A computerized wagering game apparatus, comprising:

a computerized game controller operable to control a computerized wagering game;

a video display and/or slot display device providing a visual representation of a signal provided by the computerized game controller such that the video display device displays at least one visual image selected from the group consisting of

g) computerized wagering game status information and

h) symbol elements that change with the play of the wagering game;

a communication port communicatively coupled to the computerized game controller;

an interface assembly comprising one or more user interface devices; and

an I/O interface adapter configured to communicatively couple the interface assembly to the communication port and only convert signals, the I/O interface adapter configured to communicatively couple the interface assembly to the communication port and a) convert at least some signals between the interface formats supported by the interface assembly and the universal controller and/or b) the I/O interface having digital logic to perform at least one function selected from the group consisting of buffering and latching signals.

34. A method for reconfiguring a computerized wagering game apparatus having a harness for associating a computerized game controller with output devices in the apparatus, the method comprising:

a) removing an original special-purpose computerized game controller used to control a computerized wagering game from the apparatus, the original computerized game controller designed to and capable of working exclusively with a particular computerized wagering game apparatus and at least some interface devices on the apparatus, the peripherals having been connected to the original computerized game controller through a connector;

b) inserting a universal computerized game controller operable to control a video wagering game and/or slot wagering game that can be played on the video and/or slot wagering

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game apparatus and an I/O interface adapter that operatively couples the universal computerized game controller to user interface devices of the wagering game apparatus, the I/O interface adapter configured to communicatively couple the interface assembly to the communication port and i) convert at least some signals between the interface formats supported by the interface assembly and the universal controller; ii) the I/O interface having digital logic to perform at least one function selected from the group consisting of buffering and latching signals; and/or iii) encode signals, convert signals from one voltage level to another, invert signals, multiplex signals or decode signals; and

c) sending signals from the computerized game controller through the I/O interface and harness to communicate between the computerized game controller and the at least some user interface devices, communication to the at least some user interface devices performed through the connector.

35. The method of claim 34 wherein after said sending signals, the video and/or slot gaming apparatus enables a video and/or slot display device associated with the video and/or slot wagering game apparatus to provide a visual representation of a signal provided by the computerized game controller such that the video and/or slot display device displays at least one visual image selected from the group consisting of a) computerized wagering game status information and b) symbol elements that change with the play of the wagering game.

36. The method of claim 34 wherein the I/O interface adapter has digital logic to convert signals between protocols.

37. The method of claim 35 wherein the I/O interface adapter has digital logic to convert signals between protocols.